

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Waukesha County Health & Human Services Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting Public Health Advisory Committee Thursday, June 25, 2020

Present Committee Members: Kerri Ackerman, Ross Clay, Andy Dresang, Jessica Kadow, Betty Koepsel

Absent Committee Members: Steven Andrews, Mary Reich

HHS Board Liaisons: Mary Baer

HHS Staff Liaisons: Bridget Gnad, Mary Jo Hamman, Theresa Imp, Benjamin Jones, Elizabeth Laatsch, Brittany Leising, Mary Smith

Guests: Karen H (unnamed agency representation)

Quorum = 5

I. Call to Order

Baer called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Dresang moved, second by Koepsel, to approve the minutes from March 12, 2020. Motion passed without negative vote.

III. Business

A. Elections (Term: September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021)

MOTION: Baer moved to elect Dresang as the Chair of the Public Health Advisory Committee. Motion passed without negative vote.

MOTION: Baer moved to elect Kadow as the Vice Chair of the Public Health Advisory Committee. Motion passed without negative vote.

B. Bylaws

PHAC bylaws have been revised using the new template. Neary provided members a copy of the revision. August PHAC agenda to include vote for approval before submission to the HHS Board.

C. Community Needs Presentation

Baer shared that the critical needs presentations to the HHS Board took place virtually on June 2, 2020. The Public Health Advisory Committee presented two primary needs.

- 1.) Funding with a need for a \$65,000 increase just to maintain and allow for current salary and benefit increases. Emphasis was placed on the limitations of only being able to provide the statutorily required services and not having the flexibility to respond to emergency situations, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2.) Data Analytics and the need for \$111,000 to create a Department wide IT Professional position.

The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was also expressed and due to the number of new board members, time was spent educating on what Public Health does. Baer requested the presentation PowerPoint be shared with the committee.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Health & Human Services Board

No Update

B. Environmental Health Division

No Update

C. Aging & Disability Resource Center

No Update

V. Public Health Division Reports

A. Manager / Health Officer

Jones provided an update on the current COVID-19 pandemic. There are currently 9 million+ cases globally, 2.4 million in the US and 1,000+ in Waukesha County with 38 fatalities, 155 hospitalizations and a 3-4% positivity rate for testing. Hundreds of results are received daily with a range of positives from 5 - 50. Positive testing is trending down and the goal is to remain under 5%. Up-to-date information is available on the Waukesha County dashboard: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/COVID19> Health and Human Services personnel has been fully remote since March with limited in office staffing. A scalable staffing model has been established allowing flexibility to change with the demands of the pandemic. CARES funding will provide the allowance to bring on an additional 100 people to assist with contact tracing. Disease Investigators and Contact Tracers are being added to the extensive organizational chart weekly, including redeployed HHS staff, volunteers and new hires, with hopes that Public Health staff are able to start phasing back into business continuity services in September. Assistance from school nurses over the last few months has allowed us to build a strong foundation and relationship with these individuals, while giving them a better understanding of things for when they go back school in the fall. Jones shared that trying to prevent transmission is an unrealistic goal; rather the goal is to control the spread of the virus so our hospital systems are not overburdened and can still provide daily services to patients, meeting the needs of other illnesses and injuries. Data shows the chance of transmission can be up to 19 times less likely when outdoors. Greater challenges lay ahead as people begin to remain indoors more and we are faced with the addition of the upcoming flu season.

Kadow reported that the accuracy of the impact on the Hispanic community is questionable due to only about 45% of facilities collecting and reporting data related to race and ethnicity. Of those currently reported, 33% of the positive cases are Hispanic. The COVID-19 pandemic first affected the Hispanic community through loss of jobs and now many families are being impacted by having to deal with significantly ill individuals.

B. Coordinator

No Update

C. Communicable Disease

No Update

D. Family & Community Health

No Update

E. WIC

No Update

F. Preparedness

Gnadt shared that the Preparedness grant year will end on June 30, 2020. Preparedness staff is working on the necessary reporting for this.

VI. Agency Announcements and Updates

None

VII. Other

None

VIII. Public Comment

None

IX. Adjournment

MOTION: Dresang moved, second by Kadow, to adjourn at 9:23 a.m. Motion passed without negative vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Trista Neary.

Minutes Were Approved: 8/13/2020 Date: _____